WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup section which photographs an image and outputs its image information;

5   a recording section which stores the image information from the image pickup section;

a communicating section which transmits the image information from the image pickup section to an external unit;

10   a determining section which determines which the image information from the image pickup section is stored in the recording section or stored in the external unit through the communicating section as a dispersion processing; and

15   a control section which, when the determining section determines that the image information should be stored in the external unit, transmits a request signal for the dispersion processing to the external unit through the communicating section and if an acceptance

20   signal about the dispersion processing is received from the external unit, have the image information transmitted to the external unit.

2.   The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external unit which the control

25   section intends to have the image information stored in is other image pickup apparatus for photographing images.

3. The image pickup apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the control section, when transmitting
the image information to the external unit, generates
and stores a list indicating that the image information
is dispersed.

4. The image pickup apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the control section, when transmitting
the image information to the external unit, generates
and stores a list information indicating that the image
information is dispersed and containing at least one of
identification information about the image information
and identification information about the external unit
which is a dispersion destination of the image
information.

5. The image pickup apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the control section, when transmitting
the image information to the external unit, attaches at
least one of identification information about the image
information and identification information about the
external unit which is the dispersion destination of
the image information to the image information as
a header for transmission.

6. The image pickup apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the control section, when receiving
a request signal for the dispersion processing from
other image pickup apparatus, stores transmitted image
information in the recording section.

7.   The image pickup apparatus according to
claim 1 wherein the control section, when receiving
a request signal for the dispersion processing from
other image pickup apparatus, determines whether or not
5   the image information can be stored in the recording
section and if it is determined that the image
information can be stored, transmit an acceptance
signal about the dispersion processing to the other
image pickup apparatus and further stores the
10   transmitted image information in the recording section.

8.   The image pickup apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the control section, when receiving
a read-out request signal about .the image information
from other unit through the communicating section,
15   retrieves list information about the dispersion
processing and if image information which should be
read out is found, so controls to collect the image
information from an external unit of the dispersion
destination and transmit to the other unit.

20   9.   The image pickup apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the control section, when receiving
a read-out request signal for the image information
from other unit, retrieves identification information
about the image information corresponding to the
25   request signal from identification information of image
information in list information about the dispersion
processing executed before and if such identification

information is found, so controls to collect the image
information according to identification information
about the external unit and transmit to the other unit.

10. The image pickup apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the control section, when receiving
a request signal for collection of image information
stored in the recording section through the dispersion
processing from other image pickup apparatus through
the communicating section, reads out a corresponding
image information from the recording section and
transmits to the other image pickup apparatus.

11. An information processing method for an image
pick device having a recording section which records
photographed image and a communicating section which
transmits/receives an image, the method comprising:

photographing an image and outputting image
information;

determining which the photographed image
information should be stored in the recording section
or an external unit through the communicating section
as a dispersion processing;

when it is determined that the image information
is to be stored in the external unit, transmitting a
request signal for the dispersion processing to the
external unit through the communicating section; and

when an acceptance signal about the dispersion
processing is received from the external unit, so

controlling to transmit the image information to the
external unit.

12. The information processing method according to
claim 11, wherein the external unit in which the image
information is to be stored is other image pickup
apparatus which photographs an image.

13. The information processing method according to
claim 11, wherein, when the image information is
transmitted to the external unit, list information
indicating that the image information is dispersed is
generated and stored under the control.

14. The information processing method according to
claim 11, wherein, when the image information is
transmitted to the external unit, a list information
indicating that the image information is dispersed and
containing at least one of identification information
about the image information and identification
information about the external unit which is a
dispersion destination of the image information is
generated and stored under the control.

15. The information processing method according to
claim 11, wherein, when the image information is
transmitted to the external unit, at least one of
identification information about the image information
and identification information about the external unit
which is the dispersion destination of the image
information is attached to the image information as

a header for transmission.

16. The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when a request signal for the dispersion processing is received from other image pickup apparatus, transmitted image information is stored in the recording section under the control.

17. The information processing method according to claim 11 wherein, when a request signal for the dispersion processing is received from other image pickup apparatus, whether or not the image information can be stored in the recording section is determined and if it is determined that the image information can be stored, an acceptance signal about the dispersion processing is transmitted to the other image pickup apparatus and further the transmitted image information is stored in the recording section.

18. The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when a read-out request signal about the image information is received from other unit is retrieved, list information about the dispersion processing through the communicating section and if image information which should be read out is found, it is so controlled to collect the image information from an external unit of the dispersion destination and transmit to the other unit.

19. The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when a read-out request signal for

the image information is received from other unit, identification information about the image information corresponding to the request signal is retrieved from identification information of image information in list

5   information about the dispersion processing executed before and if such identification information is found, it is controlled to collect the image information according to identification information about the external unit and transmit to the other unit.

10   20.   The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when a request signal for collection of image information stored in the recording section through the dispersion processing is received from other image pickup apparatus, a corresponding image

15   information is read out from the recording section and transmitted to the other image pickup apparatus.